

strong sense and knowledge base on their Jewish heritage".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Merkaz Bnos High School on its Blue Ribbon Award and wishing the entire school community—students, teachers, staff members and parents—continued success and many great simchas in the future.

A SALUTE TO THE BRONCOS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fayetteville State University women's basketball team for their tremendous accomplishment this week. Their spirit and determination throughout the season has been an inspiration to us all.

On Saturday, March 3, the FSU Broncos defeated North Carolina Central University 63–59 to win the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Tournament for the first time in twenty-two years. This is truly an amazing achievement for Coach Eric Tucker and the entire Bronco team. The Broncos will now embark on a new journey, playing in the NCAA Division II tournament for the first time since 1997.

Throughout the year, the women Broncos have represented the students and faculty of FSU well by sticking together and demonstrating good sportsmanship. Coach Tucker has instilled in his players the ethic of dedication, sacrifice, and teamwork in the pursuit of excellence, and instilled in the rest of us a renewed appreciation of what it means to win with dignity and integrity. I am sure that the Broncos will demonstrate these important characteristics on the national stage during the NCAA tournament.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating this extraordinary group of women and their coaches, parents and classmates who cheered them on and made this year's CIAA tournament one to remember. Congratulations, Broncos! We will be watching you in the NCAA tournament, and we wish you the very best.

ADDRESS BY DR. JOHN DUKE ANTHONY ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA AND KUWAIT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA AND KUWAIT: THE KUWAIT-AMERICA FOUNDATION

(By John Duke Anthony)

This past week's tragic incident in California in which yet another student at an American school killed his classmates was as senseless as all the similar acts that went before. It is no less tragic for the likelihood that, short of effective remedies, the phenomenon is destined to recur in the future.

As with the earlier school killings, there will be much wringing of hands and soul searching among pundits and politicians in search of ways to cope with this ongoing blight on a significant segment of American society. In the debates that will ensue, much can be learned from a hitherto little known effort by the Kuwait-America Foundation that is helping to address this problem and others related to the violence that persists in the lives of Americans and Kuwaitis.

Two weeks ago, the nonprofit and non-governmental Kuwait-America Foundation (KAF) administered a multifaceted program to commemorate both the fortieth anniversary of Kuwait's independence and the tenth year since its liberation from Iraqi aggression. Over a period of several days, KAF manifested a growing phenomenon in international relations: the efficacy of having such organizations play pivotal roles in matters of global importance.

Like innumerable other Arab and Islamic philanthropic associations, KAF has yet to become a household word in America. However, the day is fast approaching when it will be recognized as having become a respected albeit low-key activist in support of laudable objectives in American national life.

Until ten days ago, KAF was not as well known in Kuwait as one might have thought. Many outside observers had believed, mistakenly, that Kuwait's government and private sector must have held annual commemorative events to honor the country's liberation from aggression ten years ago.

A COUNTY'S YELLOW RIBBON

Not so. The commemorative activities were the first of their kind. The previous national decision to forgo any annual outpouring of joy at the return of the country's internationally recognized government, and with it, the restoration of freedom and safety to the Kuwaiti people, was deliberate.

The decision not to celebrate was, in essence, reflective of a people's collective preference instead for wearing a yellow ribbon in memory of hundreds of missing Kuwaiti and other nationals who have yet to return from the months-long nightmare that Iraq unleashed against Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

For most, the idea of rejoicing with so many of their fellow citizens' still in Iraq was seen as premature and inappropriate. It was overshadowed by the ongoing grief over the country's hostages, its missing in action, and the fate of other nationalities abducted to Baghdad in the waning days of the war that have yet to be accounted for by Iraq.

The Numbsness of Numbers. In Kuwait as elsewhere, the process of coming to terms with the impact of an adversary's aggression and violence against it is considered by most to be an essential component of reconciliation. But among outsiders who have wanted to see reconciliation between Kuwait and Iraq occur sooner rather than later are many who appear to wonder whether the concern about those missing from Kuwait has been a Kuwaiti pretense or, at least exaggerated for effect.

If so, many reason, could it not be little more than a carefully crafted device deliberately tailored to garner international sympathy for the country's ongoing deterrence and defense needs that might not be as effectively obtained in any other way?

By the standard of Great Power populations, the number at issue, cynics seem prone to emphasize, appears to be minuscule. In noting that the total is 608, the tendency of some has been to think that this is a typographical error and that one or more digits must be lacking.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Kuwaiti citizens who vanished from their country in the course of being spirited off to Baghdad by Iraqi forces a decade ago are hardly faceless statistics. No Kuwaiti of this writer's acquaintance knows fewer than four who disappeared without, to date, there being a trace of what happened to them. By extension, most Kuwaitis know and regularly come into contact with an average of forty other Kuwaitis who long for the return of those missing.

Because the population of the United States is so large, and that Kuwait is so small, it is difficult for many Americans to grasp the extent of the tragedy that befell the Kuwaiti people as a result of the Iraqi invasion and occupation.

The following, however, provides perspective that may be otherwise hard-to-come by. In terms that U.S. citizens can relate to, the number of Kuwaitis missing in Iraq is equivalent to 270,000 Americans being incarcerated and unaccounted for in undisclosed sites in Canada or Mexico. In terms that the British and French can understand, it is as if 60,000 of their citizens had been forcibly seized, carted across the border, and, to this day, were still being held in a neighboring country.

On a related additional Richter scale of human tragedy, the recent commemorative events in Kuwait, in which this writer was privileged to participate, revealed yet another daunting set of numbers. One of the highlights was the unveiling by Kuwaitis, former President Bush, and former British Prime Ministers Thatcher and Major, of a memorial to the war dead resulting from the country's liberation. Listed were the names of the 351 Kuwaitis and 331 Allied Coalition country and other nationals killed during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Three hundred fifty-one. Some may say, 'for an international conflict that dominated the headlines for more than half a year, that's not so many.'

Those Killed: American Comparisons. Any in doubt as to 'how many is many?' might ask a Kuwaiti. The number, again in terms equivalent to the population of the United States, is equal to 135,000 Americans having been killed. For further context and comparisons, consider that the United States lost 58,000 in Vietnam.

Here, two points are especially pertinent. The first is that the proportionate number of Kuwaitis killed by Iraqis, is comparison with Americans killed in Vietnam, is almost three times as many. The second is that Iraqis killed this many Kuwaitis over a period of just seven months. The 58,000 Americans that died in Vietnam were killed over a 12-year period, i.e., a span of time nearly 24 times as long.

The survivors of the Kuwaitis killed during the conflict, including their spouses, children, and other relatives of those missing and unaccounted for, were front and center recently in Kuwait. Former U.S. President George Bush, Sr., U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, former British Prime Ministers Dame Margaret Thatcher and John Major, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and many other prominent international leaders associated with the country's liberation met with them. They listened to their pleas for assistance and vowed not to rest until their countrymen's return or until the missing have been fully accounted for by their captors.

KAF, Violence, and The Do The Write Thing Program. On display by KAF in the same ceremonies was another side of the